



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 22, 2002

### **S. 2428**

### **National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
on May 17, 2002*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 2428 would authorize funding for the national sea grant college program through fiscal year 2008. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$297 million over the 2003-2007 period to carry out these activities. (An additional \$193 million would be spent after 2007, including \$103 million authorized to be appropriated for 2008.) The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2428 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$490 million, including \$387 million over the 2003-2007 and \$103 million for fiscal year 2008, for the national sea grant program. These funds would be used to carry out the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) contract, grant, fellowship, and administrative functions under this program. For this estimate, CBO assumes that all amounts authorized by S. 2428 will be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the sea grants program.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Spending Under Current Law</b>						
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	62	69	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	55	62	47	14	0	0
<b>Proposed Changes</b>						
Authorization Level	0	0	93	96	98	101
Estimated Outlays	0	0	28	75	96	98
<b>Spending Under S. 2428</b>						
Authorization Level	62	69	93	96	98	101
Estimated Outlays	55	62	75	89	96	98

a. The 2002 level is the amount appropriated for that year for sea grants and related grant programs authorized by S. 2428. The 2003 level is the amount authorized for such appropriations.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

### **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

S. 2428 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit public universities by reauthorizing the national sea grant college program, which provides grants for programs to improve marine resource conservation, management, and utilization. Any costs incurred by public universities to participate in this program would be voluntary. In addition, the bill could benefit state governments that have implemented state sea grant programs by authorizing NOAA to distribute any excess amounts appropriated above the 2002 level to state sea grant programs (using a competitive, merit-based review). Any costs incurred by states would be voluntary.

### **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

S. 2428 would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On March 5, 2002, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3389, the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on February 27, 2002. The cost of the Senate bill is lower than the House Resources Committee version because it does not authorize funding for NOAA's ocean coastal research program or for the one-year grant to certain Pacific islands as the Resources Committee version did.

On April 4, 2002, CBO transmitted an estimate for H.R. 3389 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on March 20, 2002. The House Science Committee version of the legislation includes authorizations for fiscal year 2003, which the Senate bill does not.

In addition to these differences, the Senate bill includes an annual authorization of \$3 million in appropriations for fisheries extension grants. Neither House version of the legislation contained this provision.

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